Tech Info Library

AFE: Problems Translating Into RFT and DCA Formats

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Revised:        9/18/89
Security:       Everyone
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This article last reviewed: 31 August 1989

TOPIC --

I have had numerous experiences using Apple File Exchange to translate RFT
files where the translator generates an error stating that the file is not a
standard RFT file format. I've seen this many times with files brought over
from a 5520 or DisplayWriter.

Now, I am trying to create a DisplayWrite 4 file on a IBM PC-AT and save it to
a 3.5" 720K disk. AFE translates it fine. I do the same thing on my PS/2
Model 60, and the error occurs. If I copy that file to my IBM AT, then resave
it, the error remains. I am running the same versions of DisplayWrite on both
machines.

I'm thinking of trying the DataViz translators. The RFT translator seems much
more robust (it has never flagged any errors where Apple's supplied translator
does).

Two questions:

- What is the difference between the supplied RFT-to-MacWrite translator and
the one available from DataViz?

- Do you have any ideas on why a file created on the Model 60 would be
different from the file created on the IBM AT?

DISCUSSION --

The RFT translator that currently ships with AFE is not compatible with DCA/RFT
documents created by DisplayWrite 4 or other software packages that use the
more recent releases of the DCA standard. Apple is evaluating whether to
create a new version of the translator that is compatible with the recent
releases of the DCA standard.

There should be no difference in the files created by DisplayWrite 4 on any
IBM-compatible computer. We cannot begin to guess why the files appear to be
different; we suspect that they aren't.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:4304